UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Straws in the Wind - Part 219

From Inside Higher Ed: *The National Institutes of Health is deciding, per court agreements, whether to award or deny droves of grant applications that the agency previously either rejected or shelved. This funding was stalled last year amid the Trump administration's blunt moves to restrict research into certain disfavored topics, such as diversity, equity and inclusion—though researchers and state attorneys general said officials shot down a greater range of projects, including ones that could save lives. The NIH's agreements, laid out in court filings in two ongoing lawsuits, are already bearing fruit. A spokesperson for the Massachusetts attorney general's office, which is leading one of the cases, said the agreement in that suit promises decisions on more than 5,000 grants nationally. On Dec. 29, the date of the agreement, the NIH issued 528 grant decisions, 499 of which were approvals, the spokesperson said.*

A spokesperson for the American Civil Liberties Union, which is leading the other case, said the agreement in that case involves about 400 grants. He said the NIH awarded at least 135 out of 146 applications in a batch of decisions on Dec. 29.

The filings set a series of dates by which the NIH agreed to decide on awarding or denying other types of grants. The last deadline is July 31. The agreements are another example of the Trump administration reversing many of its sweeping cuts to research funding in response to litigation. Researchers and organizations filed suit after suit last year after the NIH and other federal funding agencies abruptly terminated previously awarded grants and sat on applications for new ones...

NIH director Jay Bhattacharya said that... the NIH's DEI-related work "did not actually have any chance of improving the health of minority populations." He said, "I think that the shift away from DEI is of a piece with the rest of what we're trying to do at the NIH, which is to do research that actually makes the lives of people better."

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty-issues/research/2026/01/02/nih-approves-100s-grant-applications-it-shelved-or-denied.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, health care, politics

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Fight for the Future of Higher Education: Academic Freedom from the Classroom to the Clinic
- Our Concerns Over Revisions to APMs 15 and 16
- Fight for the Future of Higher Ed Town Hall
- Letter from AAUP to UC Objecting to Trellix
- Judge rules Trump demands of UCLA must be made public

Remaking the University

- Minneapolis Lessons for Higher Education - 1/31/2026
- Achieving Our University - 1/20/2026
- Liner Note 46. On Direct Faculty Control of Universities - 1/17/2026

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
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- California Professor

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UC Faculty Associations

- UCLA Faculty Association
- UCSB Faculty Association
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- Council of UC Faculty Associations

Other Faculty Organizations

- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

Topics

The Regents Are Coming: January 20-21, 2026

Some highlights include dismissal of a UCLA faculty member and discussion of - but not action on - revision of faculty disciplinary processes.

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Agenda: January 20-21, 2026, UCLA Luskin Conference Center

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Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Noon: **Health Services Committee** (open session- includes public comment session)

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 18, 2025

Public Comment Period (30 minutes)

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Upon end of open session:

Health Services Committee (closed session)

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 18, 2025 and the Joint Meeting of the Health Services Committee and the Finance and Capital Strategies Committee of November 20, 2025

H1(X) Discussion: Extension of the Appointment of and Compensation for Interim Chief Executive Officer, UC Davis Health, Davis Campus

H2(X) Discussion: UC Health Litigation Update

H3(X) Discussion: UC Irvine Health Integration Review

--

1:30 pm **Health Services Committee** (open session)

H1 Action: Approval of Extension of the Appointment of and Compensation for Interim Chief Executive Officer, UC Davis Health, Davis Campus as Discussed in Closed Session

H4 Discussion: Optimizing Employee Access to Care: An Update from the University of California Health Clinical Quality Committee

--

2:00 pm **Board** (open session)

Remarks of the Chair of the Board

Remarks of the President of the University

Remarks of the Chair of the Academic Senate

B1 Discussion: UC Inspires: The Global Impact of UC Cancer Research

B2 Discussion: UC Accountability Report

--

3:15 pm **National Laboratories Committee** (open session)

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 16, 2025

N1 Annual Report on Fiscal Year 2025 National Laboratory Performance Ratings

--

3:30 pm **Governance Committee** (open session)

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 20, 2025

politics (2363) UC (2096) UC Regents (1888) health care (1425) State Budget (1276) governor (1125) UC budget crisis (970) diversity (962) UC-Berkeley (912) pension (662) pensions (593) admissions (543) athletics (539) tuition (533) CSU (411) transportation (395) UC-Davis (377) online education (339) UCOP (312) uc retirement (308) ucrp (301) traffic (300) audio (291) UC enrollment (282) new hotel-conference center (282) UC-San Diego (263) enrollment (259) community colleges (243) LAO (231) UC-Irvine (185) fund raising (168) UC-Santa Barbara (162) UC-San Francisco (160) UC-Santa Cruz (159) controller (149) faculty center (144) UC-Riverside (142) ballot propositions (132) CalPERS (122) UC-Merced (117) faculty pay (109) Master Plan (106) Yudof (90) UCRS retirement (62) parking (61) Faculty Association at UCLA (60) privatization (59) CalSTRS (50) UC Berkeley (35) copyright (35) campus climate survey (28) UCRS (22) Michigan Model (18) UC Merced (17) uc funding (16) Regents (15) State Contribution (14) UCOF (14) faculty recruitment (12) UC pay (7) graduate education (6) UC San Diego (5) UC Irvine (3) UCpolitics (3) teaching evaluation (3) UC Santa Cruz (2)

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Lane Squeeze Coming Next Weekend

Straws in the Wind - Part 239

Watch the Regents Meetings of Jan. 21, 2026

Just the (Corrected) Facts - Part 2

Is small beautiful in the current higher ed climate?

Climate Proposal

Straws in the Wind - Part 238

Inquiring Minds

Straws in the Wind - Part 237

Encampment Case Goes Forward - Decision

Watch the Regents Meetings of January 20, 2026

Straws in the Wind - Part 236 (Compact 2.0)

Former UCLA Law Dean Named Head of Columbia

G1 Action: Amendment of May 2026 Regents Meeting Dates

--

Upon end of open session:

Governance Committee (closed session)

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 20, 2025

G1(X) Discussion: Collective Bargaining Matters

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4:00 pm **Special Committee on Nominations** (closed session)

S1(X) Action: Appointment of an Advisor to the Health Services Committee

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Concurrent Meetings:

--

4:05 pm **Compliance and Audit Committee** (open session)

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 20, 2025

C1 Action: Amendment of Internal Audit Charter

--

Upon end of open session:

Compliance and Audit Committee (closed session)

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 20, 2025

C2(X) Action: Recommended Settlements for Board Action:

Various medical malpractice and workers' compensation cases listed.

C3(X) Discussion: Appellate, Trial Court Developments and Update

Cases include CITY OF PASADENA v. REGENTS (UCLA trying to leave the Rose Bowl), DO NO HARM v. REGENTS; STUDENTS AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION v. REGENTS; ZHONG v. REGENTS (anti-DEI cases), the UCLA Gordon Klein case (complaint over suspension of instructor in wake of George Floyd incident/Klein failed to get damages), various Heaps cases (sexual assaults by UCLA doctor), litigation related to federal funding cuts, litigation related to protests, and various medical malpractice, employment, pension, and other cases.

--

4:05 pm **Public Engagement and Development Committee** (open session)

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 16, 2025

P1 Action: Endorsement of Inspiring Change: The Campaign for UC Santa Cruz

P2 Discussion: Green Grounds Certification and Biodiversity, UCLA

P3 Update on Systemwide Alumni Association

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Wednesday, January 21, 2026

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8:30 am **Board** (open session - includes public comment session)

Public Comment Period (30 minutes)

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings of May 15 and November 20, 2025

Remarks from Student Associations

B3 Discussion: Dismissal of Faculty Member, Los Angeles Campus

Bubble Worries
Straws in the Wind - Part 235
ICE Matters
Some day
Straws in the Wind - Part 234
It's hard to keep the lid on - Part 10 (confirmation)
Pension Payments at Risk - Part 2
SAT vs. ACT vs. UC
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Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 112
In Dialogue or in Denial - Part 2
I Never Promised You a Rose Bowl? - Part 10 (alter...
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Wikipedia solicitations
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Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge - Part 111
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Terminated
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Wikipedia Scams
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And things roll along without a Master Plan
UC Should Cash the Check Quickly
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I Never Promised You a Rose Bowl? - Part 8
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New Bus Lane to UCLA
Pension Payments at Risk
Why folks are nervous - Part 2
Straws in the Wind - Part 223
Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 110
New Anderson Dean
No Retroactive Pension Payments for Delayed Filings

Note: The individual from UCLA involved is not named at this time. Such sessions before the Regents are extremely rare.

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9:30 am **Board** (closed session)

B3(X) Action: Dismissal of Faculty Member, Los Angeles Campus

See note above.

B4(X) Discussion: External Funding Litigation and Legal Issues

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12:45 pm **Finance and Capital Strategies Committee** (open session)

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 19, 2025

F1 Discussion: Review of the Governor's January Budget Proposal 2026-27

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1:15 pm **Academic and Student Affairs Committee** (open session)

Agenda – Open Session

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 19, 2025

A1 Action: Approval of Multi-Year Plans for Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition for Three Graduate Professional Degree Programs

A2 Discussion: Amendment of Academic Personnel Manual Sections 015 and 016: The Faculty Code of Conduct and University Policy on Faculty Conduct and the Administration of Discipline and Report on Systemwide Review of Faculty Discipline Procedures

Note: The matter is on the agenda as a result of regental concerns regarding the length of time involved in faculty discipline.

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3:00 pm **Board** (open session)

Committee Reports Including Approval of Recommendations from Committees:

- Academic and Student Affairs Committee
- Compliance and Audit Committee
- Finance and Capital Strategies Committee
- Governance Committee
- Health Services Committee
- National Laboratories Committee
- Public Engagement and Development Committee
- Special Committee on Nominations

Resolutions

Officers' and President's Reports:

Report of Materials Mailed Between Meetings

--

Upon end of open session:

Board (closed session)

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 19-20, 2025

Committee Reports Including Approval of Recommendations from Committees:

- Compliance and Audit Committee
- Governance Committee
- Health Services Committee

Officers' and President's Reports:

- Personnel Matters

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The Underside of UCLA Receives National Attention
Straws in the Wind - Part 221
The Visit
Faculty Discipline & Name Disclosures
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Still More on the Need for a New Master Plan
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The coming state budget squeeze
New Research Costs for 2026
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Computer Ready
Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 108
I Never Promised You a Rose Bowl? - Part 6
4th Quarter 2025 Wrap-Up on the Governor
Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 107

► 2025 (1139)
► 2024 (832)

- Report of Interim, Concurrence, and Committee Actions
- Report of Materials Mailed Between Meetings

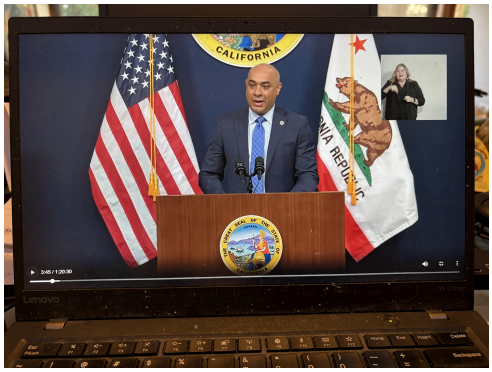
Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/agendas/jan26.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: UC Regents, UCLA

Saturday, January 10, 2026

The No-Hassles-While-I'm-in-Office State Budget Proposal



As blog readers will know, Gov. Newsom decided his big final speech should be the State of the State address and left the budget presentation yesterday to his finance director Joe Stephenshaw.

You will read in news coverage that the budget is "balanced." That is California budget-speak. Budgets that pull down reserves are not balanced in common English usage and the proposal pulls down reserves. It essentially relies on the extra revenue (compared with estimates made when the current budget was enacted) that has accumulated as added reserves in the general fund (GF).

It pulls down that reserve in the general fund by around $21 billion and puts about $3 billion in the "rainy day" fund (Budget Stabilization Account or BSA). The Public School reserve is also largely drained. The bottom line is a deficit of about $18 billion. All of these estimates are based on underlying economic forecasts which verbally acknowledge that the added revenue is coming largely from capital gains in the stock market associated with the AI boom, but don't directly reflect what might happen if the boom becomes a bust.

In addition, the current year - when you sum up all the reserves associated with the general fund - shows a deficit of over $5 billion. Total spending next year rises over 5%, i.e., more than inflation is likely to be. We show these results on the table below:

$Million	2025-26	2026-27
GF Beginning Balance	$ 55,951	$ 53,541
Revenue & transfers	$ 235,162	$ 227,385
Expenditures	$ 237,662	$ 248,330
GF surplus/deficit	$ (2,500)	$ (20,945)
GF Ending Balance	$ 53,451	$ 32,506
Public School Ending Balance	$ 4,509	$ 4,102
Safety Net Ending Balance	$ -	$ -
BSA "rainy day" Ending Balance	$ 11,327	$ 14,350
Public School surplus/deficit	$ 4,054	$ (407)
Safety Net surplus/deficit	$ -	$ -
BSA surplus/deficit	$ (6,964)	$ 3,023
Total Reserves Ending Balance	$ 69,287	$ 50,958
Total Reserves surplus/deficit	$ (5,410)	$ (18,329)

Source: https://ebudget.ca.gov/2026-27/pdf/BudgetSummary/SummaryCharts.pdf. To estimate surpluses and deficits in the Public School, Safety Net, and BSA, I used estimates from the enacted budget of the current year (2025-26) from https://ebudget.ca.gov/2025-26/pdf/Enacted/BudgetSummary/SummaryCharts.pdf. Those estimates may differ from what the Dept. of Finance now has by a bit, but not enough to matter for the general story.

► 2023 (828)
► 2022 (719)
► 2021 (710)
► 2020 (914)
► 2019 (671)
► 2018 (595)
► 2017 (666)
► 2016 (715)
► 2015 (765)
► 2014 (704)
► 2013 (776)
► 2012 (839)
► 2011 (738)
► 2010 (431)
► 2009 (12)

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

During the presentation news conference, Finance Director Stephenshaw repeatedly emphasized that the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) is using more cautious revenue estimates and that, if revenue problems arise from the stock market, the May Revise budget will take account of them.

What about UC's allocation? The official numbers show a general fund allocation this year of about $4.9 billion rising to $5.4 billion in the coming fiscal year. So it was unlikely there would be complaints from UC. There is a verbiage about the "loans" to UC that were made to avoid actual cuts and that the loans seem to roll over next year. It's hard to disentangle the details from the fuzzy description. But, again, UC was unlikely to squawk (as it did last year when cuts were on the agenda). Instead, there was the more usual thank-you for UC President Milliken:

UC statement on Gov. Newsom's 2026–27 state budget proposal

UC Office of the President, January 9, 2026

I am deeply grateful to Governor Newsom and our legislative leaders for their steadfast support of the University of California. Despite ongoing financial challenges for the state, they have remained committed to California's students. Working together, we've kept a UC education affordable and accessible, advancing opportunity across the state. We've enrolled a record-breaking 200,000 California undergraduates and provided the financial support that allows 64 percent of California students to graduate with no student debt. Our total student enrollment of 301,093 for fall 2025 is also a new record.

The budget introduced today by Governor Newsom continues to provide critical support for the University and our students. State support is more important than ever, as we face tremendous financial pressures stemming from rising costs and unprecedented federal actions. UC campuses rely on funding stability to serve students and maintain the academic and research excellence that has made UC the world's greatest research university. An investment in UC is an investment in California's future. I look forward to our ongoing partnership with Governor Newsom and the Legislature to ensure that our students have what they need to succeed at UC and beyond.

Source: https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/uc-statement-gov-newsoms-2026-27-state-budget-proposal.

The bottom line on the budget proposal is that the governor does not want to deal with complaints and attacks from the legislature and the various state interest groups for the remainder of his term. How kind the gods of the stock market will turn out to be remains to be seen.

===

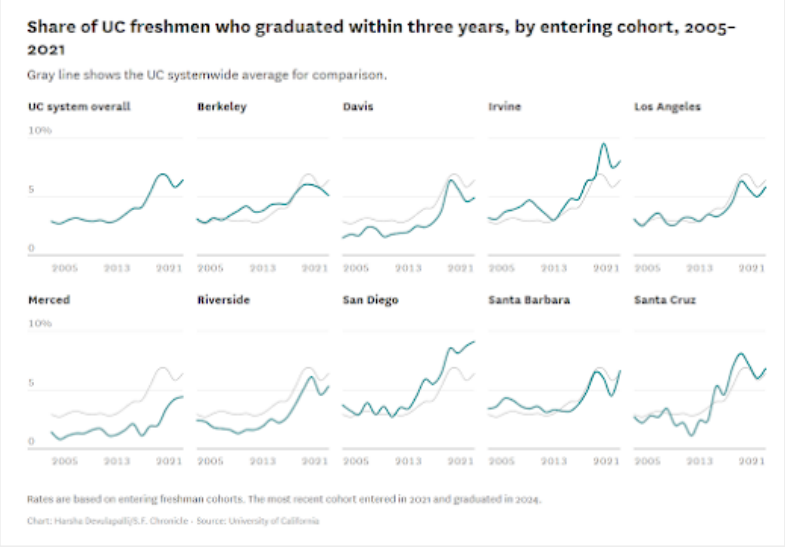
You can see the budget presentation at:

https://ia800106.us.archive.org/0/items/newsom-1-1-2026-new-year/Finance%20Director%20Joe%20Stephenshaw%20presents%20Governor%27s%202026-27%20budget%20proposal%201-9-2026.mp4. (It starts at minute 2.)

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:40 AM No comments:

Labels: governor, LAO, legislature, State Budget, UC budget crisis

Fast Movers



The San Francisco Chronicle notes there is a small but rising group of undergrads who finish in three years:

"*Of the 31,550 students who began studying at a UC campus in 2005, fewer than 1,000 of them, 3%, went on to earn a diploma in three years. By 2021, more than 3,300 students — 6.4% of the 51,934 students who entered UC that year — had their a degree by 2024, just three years after landing on campus.*"

Full story at https://www.sfchronicle.com/college-admissions/article/uc-three-year-graduation-21251145.php.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: UC, UC-Berkeley, UC-Davis, UC-Irvine, UC-Merced, UC-Riverside, UC-San Diego, UC-Santa Barbara, UC-Santa Cruz, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 218

From Politico: *President Donald Trump disrupted universities and school districts in 2025 through sheer executive muscle. Now comes the harder part: making sure his policies outlast his presidency. Trump signed a dizzying number of education-related executive orders — spanning from diversity initiatives to college oversight — launched a barrage of civil rights investigations into schools, froze billions in federal research cash and started his long-promised dismantling of the Education Department.*

His actions were designed to pressure schools into adopting policies that align with his political agenda, bolster parental rights and give states more control over their schools. In many ways, the moves worked: Some schools responded by eliminating diversity programs, barring transgender students from women's sports and striking unprecedented deals with the White House hoping to get their federal research cash flowing again...

To make lasting changes, Trump's next move will be to make his policies harder to unravel. "This has been a year of enforcement through investigation," said Bob Eitel, who served as

former Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' senior counsel and is now president of the Defense of Freedom Institute, a conservative think tank. "Next year will be the year of rulemaking." Even though Trump has three more years in his second term, he is actually short on time to make that happen because writing regulations is often long, detailed and painstaking work. It's the type of labor that would have been done by the career employees he spent months pushing out of their jobs...

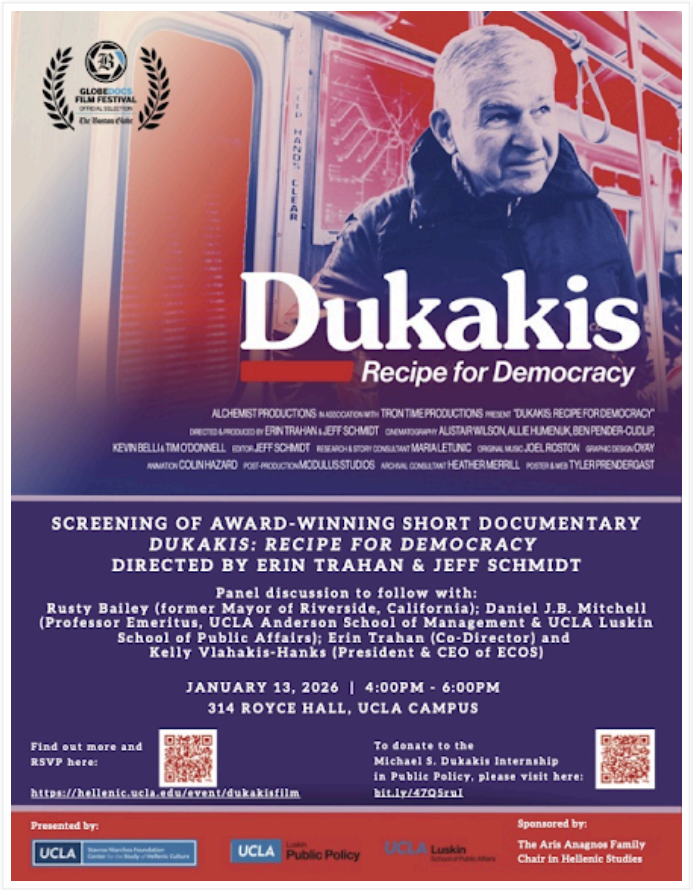
Generally, rules must be finalized by Nov. 1 to take effect by July. If not, a rule's implementation could be delayed a year. The law's deadlines and the department's regulatory calendar rule, combined with the agency's reduced workforce, could pose significant hurdles...

Full story at https://www.politico.com/news/2026/01/04/trump-upended-the-us-education-system-in-2025-its-only-the-beginning-00693857.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, diversity, politics

Dukakis Event This Coming Tuesday


GLOBESDOCS FILM FESTIVAL
Dukakis
Recipe for Democracy
SCREENING OF AWARD-WINNING SHORT DOCUMENTARY
DUKAKIS: RECIPE FOR DEMOCRACY
DIRECTED BY ERIN TRAHAN & JEFF SCHMIDT
Panel discussion to follow with:
Rusty Bailey (former Mayor of Riverside, California); Daniel J.B. Mitchell (Professor Emeritus, UCLA Anderson School of Management & UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs); Erin Trahan (Co-Director) and Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks (President & CEO of ECOS)
JANUARY 13, 2026 | 4:00PM - 6:00PM
314 ROYCE HALL, UCLA CAMPUS
Find out more and RSVP here:
https://hellenic.ucla.edu/event/dukakisfilm
To donate to the Michael S. Dukakis Internship in Public Policy, please visit here:
bit.ly/47Q5ruI
Presented by:
UCLA
UCLA Public Policy
UCLA Luskin
Sponsored by:
The Aris Anagnos Family Chair in Hellenic Studies

Yours truly - who co-taught a course on California policy at UCLA with Michael Dukakis for over two decades - will be on the panel. Dukakis will be "attending" via a remote connection.

https://hellenic.ucla.edu/event/dukakisfilm/

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous, UCLA

No Cap

From the Chronicle of Higher Education: *A federal appeals court on Monday ruled that the National Institutes of Health cannot unilaterally cap the indirect-cost rate on its grants at 15 percent, continuing a freeze on the controversial policy change that would cost universities billions. The ruling is a victory for the prominent higher-ed associations who joined the attorneys general of 22 states in suing over the move last year, claiming that it violates the Administrative Procedure Act and the explicit language of congressional appropriations.*

The NIH's February 7 announcement sent shockwaves through higher education. Research universities routinely negotiate with the federal government for indirect-cost reimbursement rates far above 15 percent; a sudden cap amounted to a multibillion-dollar hit to the sector. The Trump administration argued that a cap on overhead would better support science and be a more efficient use of public funds. Colleges countered that an arbitrary cap would fail to support the significant overhead — in the form of buildings and administrative staff, among other resources — not tied to a specific project but required to conduct advanced science.

The proposed policy was put on hold amid the attorneys' general legal challenge. A federal judge ruled in their favor and issued a permanent injunction in April, finding that the measure was "arbitrary and capricious" and violated the law. A three-judge panel of the First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston on Monday agreed, writing that the change "is unlawful because it violates a statute and regulations." ...

Full story at https://www.chronicle.com/blogs/the-trump-agenda/trump-cant-cap-overhead-rate-on-nih-grants-to-research-universities-appeals-court-rules.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, politics

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